SOUTHERN Farm Leader

Dedicated to the farm workers', sharecroppers', tenants' and small owners' struggle for union, justice and a better life.

OFFICIAL ORGAN SHARE CROPPERS UNION

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National Drouth Meeting To Work For Relief, Debt Aid And Crop Insurance

Flogging Victim Sues Planters In Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Civil suits seeking damages for the brutal flogging of Miss Willie Sue Blagdon, white Memphis social workers, will be filed soon by attorneys of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union at Jonesboro, Ark.

Miss Blagdon and the Rev. Claude Williams of Little Rock, Ark., were flogged by planter vigilantes last June when they went to Earle, Ark., to investigate the murder of a Negro sharecropper during the strike of the Tenant Farmers Union.

Two days after the Department of Justice announced that it would present evidence of forced labor in Arkansas to a Federal Grand Jury Gov. J. M. Futrell of Arkansas prepared to establish a committee to investigate the tenant farmer and sharecropper problem

The Share Croppers Union has written to Futrell requesting that it be invited to participate in the conferences of the committee.

Governors of five states—Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia—have already indicated their approval of the proposal.

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union which is active in Arkansas look upon the plan with suspicion. Union officials declared that Futrell "has been one of the most bitter opponents of the organized sharecroppers and other farm laborers."

They said that if he is sincere in his "newly found intentions, he can best demonstrate it by using his power to force local authorities to produce the body of Frank Weems. . . Sheriff Curlin more than 30 days ago said he could produce Frank Weems within 48 hours"

The Grand Jury plans to investigate the landlord's "crooked pencil"—the system whereby all books are kept by the planters with the tenants compelled to accept the bosses figures.

The landlords' practice compelling their hands to buy their furnishings from stores and commisaries controlled by the landlord will also be looked into.

CHICAGO, ILL.—A broad, well organized campaign to prevent the planters of Arkansas from getting their hands on Sam Bennett, member of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union—who fled from the scene of the recent cotton choppers strike to avoid a lynch mob,—is in full progress here.

Bennett is now in Chicago and petitions with the signatures of thousands of Illinois workers will soon be presented to Gov. Horner demanding that he refuse to allow the Arkansas [illegible] to get their hands

FARMERS STOP EVICTION SALE

MONTEVIDO, MINN.—Fred. Schulke saved his farm.

This is how it was done.

He had money enough to meet his mortgage but the insurance company said that "land values are going up, and inflation may come, so we'd rather have the farm than the money."

So a thousand farmers, many of them members of the Farmers' Holiday Association, gathered in front of the courthouse an hour before the foreclosure sale was to be held. At the appointed time the sheriff appeared but did not dare to work his way through the crowd—which was entirely orderly.

He began to argue with the assembled farmers. He offered to postpone the sale for a week.

The offer was promtly rejected. The sheriff conferred with an agent of the insurance company. The agent went to a telephone. He came back in a minute and announced that the sale was off.

The farmers crowded into the courthouse where they held a meeting. "The home is sacred to us," one farmer said, "and we know that in protecting a man's right to stay in his home we are upholding a higher law, a moral law. There are too many families being put out of their homes. Things are happening in the United States today that are not so good."

Leaders of the Farm Holiday Association may be arrested for preventing the sale, Federal authorities have been quoted as saying.

Okla. To Ask Drouth Relief

By ODIS L. SWEEDEN
Oklahoma State Secretary,
Southern Tenant Farmers Union

The Oklahoma division of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union is pushing out into the new communities in Oklahoma. The Union now has contracts in the twenty unorganized counties.

A council is being established in each of these counties. County organizations will be set up as fast as it is possible to do so.

The extreme drouth has hampered the work but the union still continues to grow.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY

In this vegetable section of Eastern Oklahoma the Union is pushing for drouth relief demands. Several union members have been given drouth relief work. Agricultural workers are preparing certain demands to be made on the spinach growers this fall.

WAGONER COUNTY

This county has a large Negro population and is well organized by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Although the State of Oklahoma permits the Negro the right of suffrage the Negroes of Wagoner county have been unable to get registered for many years. The union is now pushing the franchise case in Wagoner county under the direction of Rev. Purcell and Robert Winstead of Tullahassee and Rev, Burgess of Hanes. The Negroes of this county are making wonderful progress. We ask all friends of the Oklahoma union to write Gov. E. G. Marland, Oklahoma City Okla., asking him to put into effect the franchise of Wagoner County

OKLAHOMA COUNTY

Under direction of T. F. Unger this county is rapidly organizing into a militant union. The farmers of the section are working for drouth relief.

Farmers To Gather At Sioux City Sept. 29-30

SIOUX CITY, Iowa. — Farmers from four states met here last week and decided to call a drouth relief conference for farmers from all 22 drouth stricken states. John Bosch, president of the Farmers' Holiday Association, pledged the support of his organization saying "The amount of drouth relief and the manner in which it is to be handled is directly up to the farmers."

The study of drouth areas in the Mid-West by President Roosevelt's special committee has been completed. This show of interest in the situation has been branded as an attempt to keep drouth relief out of the presidential campaign as a political issue. The farmers are insisting that Washington officials attend the drouth relief conference to work out relief plans with them.

Clyde Johnson, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Share Croppers Union, called upon the Natoinal Farmers Union and the Southern Tenant Farmers's Union to support the conference and send large delegations there to work out plans of saving the farmers and their families from starvation and evictions this winter. He said, "In the South the landlords prevent sharecroppers and tenants from getting relief by refusing to sign for them at the County Agent's office. In this way they force them to work for inhuman wages and become worse than slaves. Drouth relief must go direct to all farmers in need of it, without the big landlord putting his hand on it first."

FARMERS UNION CONDEMNS TAX

HALEYVILLE, Ala.—The Six County Union meeting of the Farmers' Union here today again vigorously condemned the proposed bale tax on Alabama cotton to raise money for the administration of the Soil Conservation Act in this State.

Speakers denounced the Farm Bureau as an enemy organization and declared that Bureau leaders at Auburn instigated and framed the proposed tax bill.

A protest campaign in the form of petitions and letters will be started immediately. A mass protest delegation to Montgomery, representing the Farmers' Union, was called for.

As a last resort to protect the farmers against this unjust tax, high Union officials called for mass boycott of the tax, with a similar demand that working farmers cotton be ginned without is collection.

The Six County Farmers' Union is seeking the support of the Share Croppers Union in its fight on the proposed tax.

(Ed. Note—Copies of protest letters and petitions should be sent to G. S. Gravlee, Sumiton, Ala., and to the Southern Farm Leader, Box 859, New Orleans, La. Petitions and letters should be sent to Gov. Bibb Graves, Montgomery, Ala., and to your Legislators.)

ASK ALA. FARMERS' UNION FOR UNITY

BROTHERS:—The farming people of Alabama are faced with many important problems. In the last few years unions have been organized because the farmers realized it was the only way they could do anything about these problems.

Under the AAA conditions of the farmers have gone from bad to worse. The gvernment has done little for the farmer, even refusing to enact the Frazier Lemke Bill into law. It is necessary now to have a much stronger and united voice of the farmers.

The July convention of the Share Croppers Union instructed the Executive Council to appeal to the Alabam Farmers' Union for a united front on the following issues: (1) the struggle against mortgage foreclosures and evictions; (2) the struggle for drouth relief and Federal relief for farmers; (3) a campaign for abolition of the Poll Tax; (4) the struggle for the right of sharecrppers and tenants to gin and sell their own cotton; (5) the struggle for decent schools; (6) the struggle for civil rights and against mob violence and the brutal anti-union actions of sheriffs, deputies, officials and thugs. We propose that a committee from each Uion meet in the very near future to discuss plans of action on these issues.

We further propose that these committees discuss the possibility of the sharecroppers, tenants and small farm owners in the Share Croppers Union of Alabama uniting organizationally with the Farmers' Union in Alabama at the October convention of the Farmers' Union.

We hope to receive an early reply to this letter so that we may act quickly in the best interests of the Alabama farmers.

Executive Committee, Share Croppers Union.

4,000 Orange Pickers on Strike in California

SANTA ANA, Calif.—Four thousand agricultural workers walked out of the fields in "the most important strike in the history of Southern California."

"The strike is ninety per cent effective," announced William Velarde, strike leader. "The crops are rotting. Not more than 200 strike-breakers are at work. Most of them don't know how to pick oranges."

Most of the scabs are merely high school boys who don't know the meaning of unions. They pick oranges wrong and the fruit rots before it is packed. They boys soon tire of the job and quit. The land owners face heavy losses.

Orange pickers earned about 22 cents an hour before the strike. They were charged ten and twenty cents for transportation each day.

The strikers demand upwards of 37 cents an hour.

S.C.U CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

MORTGAGE, DEBT RELIEF

WHEREAS, there are thousands of small farm owners being driven from the land because they are unable to pay off the mortgages on their farms, and

WHEREAS, the low prices for agricultural products and discrimination under AAA have made the conditions of the farmers worse so that an increasing number of farmers are losing their land, and

WHEREAS, many of these farmers have homesteaded the land that they own, and have worked on these farms all their lives, and

WHEREAS, the government give millions of dollars to the banks, rail roads and other industries to help them, and

WHEREAS, the farmers have been the backbone of America and have been robbed of fair prices for their products by the stock exchanges and banks, and

WHEREAS, the drouth has left millions of farmers poverty-stricken without means of support and in great danger of losing their land therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Cropper Union, in convention assembled, endorse the struggle to have the government provide a system of loan at no more than 1½% interest to all farmers in need of money to cover mortgages, seed and feed or livestock loans, and for relief, insufficient amount to cover all the farmers' needs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the money for such loans be obtained through taxation of the tremendous fortunes of the stock traders, bankers and other millionaires who have obtained enormous fortunes at the expense of the farmers, and by taxing the profits of the corporations dealing in agricultural products or competitive products, an be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Council be instructed to work for the passage of the Frazier-Lemke Farm Mortgage Re-financing Bill with amendments in agreement with the principles stated in this resolution.

AAA HURT SMALL FARMER

WHEREAS, the crop reduction program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has made the conditions of the farm laborers, sharecroppers, tenants and small farm owner worse than ever before, and

WHEREAS, the local agents of the AAA allowed the landlords to cheat sharecroppers and tenants of their benefit payments and discriminated against small farm owners by underestimating cotton yield and land measurements, and

WHEREAS, the new Soil Conservation program now in force is carrying out the same crop reduction policies of the AAA, and

WHEREAS, the small farmers, the sharecroppers and the tenants have to pay for the seed and supply the labor to carry out this program of soil building, and

WHEREAS, the landlords get their land improved for no charge, but instead get the larger share of the benefit payments for soil conservation, the share that is rightly due the sharecropper and tenant, and

WHEREAS, this policy does not improve the land on a large scale but throws the entire burden of soil rebuilding on the back of the poor farmers, and

WHEREAS, the crop reduction policy results in driving poor farmers from the land, and

WHEREAS, the people of the country are in need of the products of the farm and would use all the farmer could produce if all the people had a decent standard of living, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled condemns the policy of crop reduction and supports the Program of Abundance proposed by leaders of the Farmers' Union and the Farmers' National Holiday Association to increase production and pegging of farm prices at cost of production, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union conduct a campaign to have all landlords investigated who have cheated sharecroppers and tenants of their benefit payments under the AAA and have the government prosecute these landlords and return the payments to the croppers and tenants, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union support a program of real soil conservation to improve the worn out and eroded land in the South that will not be at the expense of the poor farmers, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union strive to have the present program changed at least to the extent of having sharecroppers receive 75% and the tenants receive 87½% of the benefit payments under the Soil Conservation Act, and that these payments be made out and sent direct to the sharecroppers and tenants.

LAND FOR THE LANDLESS

WHEREAS, the reduction policies of the AAA have driven thousands of sharecroppers and tenants from the large plantations, and

WHEREAS, the drop in cotton prices and the drop in buying power of the people has caused the small farmer to go broke, and to be unable to pay off mortgages, resulting in eviction from the land, and

WHEREAS, there is no room in the cities for the people coming from the farm, since the farmers know farming, have spent their lives farming and want to stay on the land, and

WHEREAS, the land is supposed to be the common heritage of the people, but has been usurped by the greedy landlords seeking to exploit the poor to make themselves richer, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, does endorse a program whereby the government will take over idle land that is fertile, and shall set up farm laborers, sharecroppers, tenants and former small farm owners on this land, make loans to them that will cover all their needs for stock, equipment, homes, food seed, fertilizer and clothing making such loans repayable over a sixty year period with a provision that no payment shall be made during years of poor crops under the principle that the farmers family has first mortgage on the crop; that there shall be no discrimination against any farm worker or farmer because of race, creed, politics or other belief or affiliation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the co-operatives of dispossessed farm workers, sharecroppers, tenants and small owners shall be organized on good land, with sufficient loans to cover all needs giving reasonable assurance of success; that committees elected by the farmers themselves control and govern the cooperative, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Council be instructed to work for amendments to the Bankhead Farm Tenancy Bill in line with the principles stated in this resolution, so that [illegible]

GIN & SELL

WHEREAS, sharecroppers and share tenants have been denied the right to gin and sell their own cotton, and

WHEREAS, this practice was forced upon the Negroes by the rich landlords following the Civil War as a means of keeping the Negro people in debt slavery, and

WHEREAS, this practice has spread to include the poor white sharecroppers and share-tenants and has reduced them to the same condition as the Negro, and

WHEREAS, this illegal practice carried on by the landlords has driven the million and a half sharecroppers and share-tenants in the South into the most unbearable misery and poverty, stripped them of the freedom that the forefathers of our country, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, stood on, and blinded them from any hope of a better future, and

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional right of any farmers, whether working on shares or otherwise, to handle his own crop and to handle his own business, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled endorses and instructs the Executive Council to assist, promote and lead every possible struggle of the farmers to win this right and to carry on a campaign in all sections of the South, in co-operation with other farm unions, to win this right for all sharecroppers and share- tenants.

PRISONERS

WHEREAS, Tom Mooney was framed on perjured evidence and sentenced to life in prison because he was an organizer of the working people, and

WHEREAS, Angelo Herndon was framed and sentenced to twenty years on the chain gang because he organized the unemployed workers of Atlanta, and

WHEREAS, Tom Mooney, after twenty years in jail, and Angelo Herndon, courageous young Negro have in the face of capitalist justice openly asserted and proclaimed their right to organize, and

WHEREAS, they have boldly declared that they are willing to give their lives to the cause of labor, and

WHEREAS, we know the hell they have suffered because members of the Sharecroppers Union have been beaten, jailed and lynched because they organized for a little more bread, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, protests the frame-up of these two innocent workers, and demands their immediate unconditional freedom, and further be it

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States and the governors of California and Georgia.

DEFENSE

WHEREAS, it is common practice for landlord groups to organize thugs to terrorize union members and carry out beatings, floggings, lynchings and murders of farmers and workers who stand for their constitutional rights for justice, and

WHEREAS, these landlord groups seek to further rob and exploit the workers and farmers by smashing unions through terror and lynchings, and

WHEREAS, the constitution of the United States provides for the right of workers and farmers to assemble in lawful organization and provides for civil liberties for the people, and

WHEREAS, it is our right as human beings to defend our lives and our homes against the attacks of thugs and mobs, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, does urge all workers and farmers to utilize their legal right to armed self-defense when they are attacked by thugs and mobs, to protect their lives and homes, and that people organize to defend one another when they are attacked by thugs and [illegible]

FEDERAL RELIEF NEEDED

WHEREAS, there are 11 million workers unemployed in the United States through no fault of their own but suffer the hardships of unemployment because greedy capitalists have closed factories and mines to preserve their own profits, and

WHEREAS, the acreage reduction policy of the AAA has forced workers and farmers from the land leaving them homeless and destitute, and

WHEREAS, the 11 million workers with little or no income cut the market for farm products tremendously which lowers farm income, and

WHEREAS, relief given out by Republican and Democratic administrations has been far from enough and relief wage scales in the South have been far below the standard drtnudnica been far below the standard trade union wages, and

WHEREAS, it is shown that although industrial activity increases employment does not increase with it and we are in danger of having permanent army of unemployed workers, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, does endorse and instruct the Executive Council to work for: (1) Opening of all closed factories to employ the unemployed under government control at trade union wages and working conditions if the private employers refuse to do so; (2) Passage by Congress of the Frazier-Lundeen Old Age, Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill; (3) Direct Federal relief for all workers classed as unable to work; (4) For enactment by Congress of the Marcantonio Relief Standards Bill providing for Trade Union wages on relief jobs but in no case less than 40c an hour for a 40-hour week; (5) Abolition of the Southern WPA wage differential, and increase in relief funds so that all people in need of relief will be able to get enough to live on; (6) Support of and cooperation with the employed workers' struggles.

FOR UNITY IN THE SOUTH

WHEREAS, the union movement is growing rapidly in farm areas and it is necessary for the separate unions in different parts of the South to unite in powerful South-wide unions and

WHEREAS, the wage laborers on the plantations have their own problems aroud wages and working conditions and the sharecroppers, tenants and small farm owner have their problems of obtaining or maintaining the land, markets and higher prices for their crops, and WHEREAS the growth of the union movement will make it necessary that these two groups have separate unions to better handle these problems, just as wage workers and small business men in the cities have separate organizations, and

WHEREAS, with powerful united unions we will be able to deliver the death blow to the sharecropping system and stamp out the peonage terror and denial of all human and civil rights by the landlords and win freedom, happiness, and plenty for the people, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, adopts the following policy for unity in the South: (1) that the Share Croppers Union will organize stronger than ever in central Alabama, making itself as powerful as possible and lead every struggle of the white and Negro farm laborers, sharecroppers, tenants and small owners; (2) that the Share Croppers Union will support the building of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union where it is organized and support its struggles; (3) that the Share Croppers Union will support the organization of Farmers Union among the sharecroppers, tenants and small farm owners and support organization of the American Federation of Labor among the day laborers, in unorganized states; (4) that the Share Croppers Union will work to have all sharecroppers, tenants and small owners unite on a state scale in the Farmer's Union when we are able to hold amalgamation conventions, and to have all farm laborers in the South unite in the American Federation of Labor on the same basis to form a National Agricultural Workers Union

DEFENSE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the members of the Share Croppers Union have been persecuted by landlords and thugs for belonging to a union of their own choosing, and

WHEREAS, the landlords have controlled the officers of the law, and the courts; thus making it impossible for union members to get justice in the local government bodies, and

WHEREAS, every struggle that the union has conducted has been met with terror, beating and lynchings by landlord mobs, where it was almost impossible to get justice and where local officials aided and supported the law breakers, and

WHEREAS, the union will never cease its struggle for justice, freedom and plenty for all oppressed people, but on the contrary will increase these struggles to better the lives of the day laborers, share croppers, tenants and small owners, therefore it RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, shall establish a Union Defense Committee consisting of at least nine members which shall, (1) provide legal defense for all union members needing same because of union activity, (2) raise funds for legal defense, (3) spread accurate news of and against all terror and discrimination against union members, and rally mass support for all union members persecuted by landlords, thugs, or landlord-controlled officials, and (4) supply the families of pailed union members with relief until the members is free to provide for hsi family.

LIBRARIES

WHEREAS, in the rural areas of the South there are very few libraries and only a small number of these are available to the workers and farmers ,and

WHEREAS, this lack of opportunity for education for workers and farmers has kept them backward and has restricted their chance of advancement, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of libraries in the rural areas will be of great aid to educating the people and help them in their work in the unions, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union, in convention assembled, does endorse and support the Southern Rural Libraries and will work to establish branch libraries in every community, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Share Croppers Union will urge other unions, organizations, churches and individuals in rural areas to support and aid in establishing libraries in rural communities.

OUR READERS WRITE

LARD GRAVY

BROTHER EDITOR:—

We need relief and unless we get relief we will starve. The farmers in Tallapoosa only get $60 to make a crop where there are as many as 8 in a family. That was less than $2 a head a month. They only furnish poor farmers for 4 months to make a crop and won't let them have any more. We ask the merchant how we are going to get through laying by and he says the crop isn't worth laying by. If we go to the relief office for a job they say we got a crop and they can't give us a job. We have to get out and cut and split stove wood at 50c a cord. At that rate we work hard and make about 35c a day. Then we don't get any pay only by peas and meal. Unless we get relief we will starve and go naked. We need relief and a better price for what we produce.

I have made a crop on bread and compound lard gravy and they charge 20c a pound for it. Some farmers didn't get any lard and they had to crumble bread in water. They had to eat it and work hard and was cussed because they didn't do more work.

A NEGRO SHARECROPPER,
Camp Hill, Ala.

CORN CROP POOR

The writer has had an opportunity to investigate the crop conditions of the hill country of Natchitoches, Sabine and Vernon Parishes and has found that the yields are far short of 1935 crop. Many farmers claim the cotton crop will not be more than a-half yield and in many cases will be much less. The corn crop is far short of 1935 With the reduction of the cotton acreage along with the dry weather in the early part of the spring and later with the frequent rains have tend to lower the yield and the buying power of the farmers and has made their lot worse than any time in the past.

The retail prices of some commodities have gone up. In some instances of as much as 40% rise in the last 30 days. There is no Relief set up as in the first years of the crisis.

Yours,
UNION ORGANIZER,
Bellwood, La.

HARD TO LIVE

BROTHER EDITOR:—

We all got a hard time to live. The bosses use the Negro just like you use some tools when you need them once or twice a week. Sometime they give them five days and some time six days a week. That's when they need them bad. Sometime they lay up those men for weeks and some time months and the Negro got to pay rent. They don't own their own home. That is the way the sawmill of Opelousas works those poor people on and off.

The white bosses figure to keep the poor Negro down. They work us from can see to can't see.

We never see a check. We always owe it all. We have to live on credit from the store They are not afraid to give credit because they know make a profit on the goods and that they get twenty per cent on the dollar and then they get the whole check. The Negro gets only credit that the white boss is not afraid to give because he knows that he gets that check from the other white man. So he is sure to be paid.

The Negro gets robbed without a pistol.

LOYAL UNION MEMBER,
Opelousas, La.

STARVATION COUNTY RELIEF

Three Cases Cited By A Homeless Reader

Brother Editor:-

Yesterday morning a scrawny widow walking along the road on her way to town stopped in on me. She was on her way to town to seek relief. "Mr.—," she said, "I known I am not going to get a job, but of course if I don't go those liars at the office will delight in telling me that had I only been there yesterday they could have given me a job.

"They know I am a widow, they know my husband died with T. B. and that what the doctor didn't get his hands on the undertaker stole. They know I have to pay five dollars a month rent for a room in a miserable shack three miles from town with neither light nor water let alone a garden.

"At the relief office the gentlemen call me the fussy lady. But can you blame me for getting sore? The official job racketeer is getting his swell salary, work or no work. His whole family is employed by the government, some of them in Washington any everybody in town knows he is the biggest crook in the whole county. But that is not all.

"I can give you the names of several landlords who have several tenant farmers on their place and who have sold hundreds and hundreds of dollars of water melons but who are getting $2.50 a day and you hardly ever see them anywhere near a job. Do you blame me for getting mad when I know those landlords refuse to give their poor tenants a little corn meal after the crop is laid by. I am going to tell those people what I think of them."

At noon of that same day a young lad dropped by my place. "Son," I asked, "Did you ever get that job?"

He sent me a contempible look full of scorn and hatred and said, "Hell, no! You know it's just like you told me sometime ago. They ain't never going to give me any. I don't see why it is, but them what don't need jobs can get them and don't have to go to that lousy office and I who have no daddy to feed me and send me to school can get no job."

I asked him what about his mother?

"They won't give mother a job either," he said. "Every time I go to the office that lady in charge is either powdering her nose, painting her lips or polishing her nails. If she isn't doing that you can be sure she is at the drug store eating ice cream with a bunch like herself. She never has time to talk to us and if you succeed in asking her a question she don't know nothing and to judge by the empty look on her painted pan—you feel like she is really telling the truth."

Last night I went to a meeting of the Share Croppers Union. The very minute I got up on the porch a voice from a dark corner boomed these words at me: "Say, Captain, what is the matter with you white folks, anyhow?"

I pulled a chair up next to our friend and demanded to know just what he had on his mind. He wanted to know why he and his boys couldn't get work on them government jobs.

"Don't you white folks know we colored folks got to have a little something to eat after crops are laid by?"

Well, if you've been reading the *SOUTHERN FARM LEADER*, you all agree that the poor white and Negroes together with all the Rev. Williams, Sue Bladgens and all the rest of them must meet in one solid union in order to effectively fight a common enemy. *THE SOUTHERN FARM LEADER* is one of the best means by which to bring together the only power on earth which can do away with slavery, starvation and oppression for all times.

And that power is organization.

A TAXPAYER FROM STARVATION COUNTY, MISS.

A FAIR CHANCE

BROTHER EDITOR:—

The Negro has no chance today. We got no schools like we should have. The white people got good schools and the Negro has no chance at all.

We are asking that the Negro be given a fair chance.

Some Negro and poor people never know what a union is. And today the Negroes are going to join the union. My white brothers—you know that the Negro has been a slave and that is the reason the Negro is a little slow to join the Farmers' Union. But the Negro is not so slow anymore to join the union. The Negro joins the union now faster.

What the Negro needs is good church and school and faith.

The landlord of the South is very hard on the poor white farmers and the poor Negro farmers. The landlord thinks that a tenant must try to defend himself but just do what he says.

White brothers the Negro asks you this, give the Negro a fair chance and he will fight his way through by joining the Farmers' Union and fight for justice. It will better men and better women. The Negro is just as good a race as their is on the globe.

Give the Negro a chance he will join the Farmers' Union just as the poor white.

A NEGRO BROTHER,
Opelousas, La.

CORN IS LOW

BROTHER EDITOR:

In some parts of this section the crop is very short. The first part of the Spring it rain too much and on the last it was too dry. Farmers made just about half a crop. Some of the farmers don't need to go into the field with a wagon to take in their corn. They can take in their crop in a sack. How can we live like this all winter and make a crop next year? No bread at all.

We need relief. We got to have relief. We got no corn to raise a hog or a chicken and no corn to feed our mules. There is no corn to go to the mill to grind corn into meal for our own family.

All poor farmers need relief. This is to put in the paper.

TENANT FARMER,
Opelousas, La.

WASHINGTON—More than a million new homes are needed yearly for the next ten years in order to give American farmers and workers decent homes in which to live, the American Federation of Labor reports. Not only would such a program give America decent homes in which to live but it would put to work the 1,300,000 workers in the building trades who are now unemployed.

Young Farmer Tells Why He Hates War and Facism

The reasons why I want to attend the Southern Workers' Anti-War School at Commonwealth College are:

1. To learn how to fight against war. I hate the capitalist wars to the utmost extent which destroys millions of lives and are only a gain for the rich man. After the wars are over the countries which participate in them are in such a state that the people are jobless, homeless and thousands starve to death for the lack of food. I have always been anti-war because our last war which took thousands of lives and left this country in such a turnmoil that one and only one system of government can ever do us any good and that is the workers's system of government which I hope will be just a short time from now.

2. To learn how to fight against Fascism. I also hate Fascism as I do wars which takes away the last rights of the working class and they are freedom of speech, freedom of press and freedom of assembly.

I do not like dictatorship which the people in Italy and Germany have and under which thousands are killed, brutally beaten, thrown in prison with solitary confinement and starved to death. Fascism keeps the working class at the lowest ebb and under this system it endangers the actual lives of the people.

I have been denied an education above the high school education and under the capitalist system which the schools are dictated to by. I did not get to learn how to stop war or fascism and I am highly pleased with a chance to go to a workers' school and learn things that will be of a great help for my self and fellow workers which I hold a place within my thoughts for them and those who strive for the betterment of his or her country.

I am but 18 years of age and my experience has been very little within the past because of lack of an opportunity to attend a school where I could learn of things which would help me to carry on the most important movement among the working class.

For these various reasons I want to attend the Southern Worker's Anti-War School to be held at Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas.

ONE DAY A WEEK

BROTHER EDITOR:—

About one-half of the poor people between the Negro and White got relief. About one-third is just scraping along for their living. Most men in that class have no work at all. Just a few men that work at the sawmill and a few men that work on the railroad and the other few men work in the country but they just get one day a week and sometimes they get two days. And some time they can find one day or two days work in town. Most of the time they find none. They work just where they can get some work.

Most of the unemployed who can find no job live on what their wife makes a week Some make a dollar a week, some a dollar fifty and some make two dollars or two fifty a week.

When they go to the relief office the white people there say that the women are doing good to get such wages that they don't need relief. Their wives are working they say but I say that the families just can't take care of themselves on two dollars a week.

Everyone up here needs relief awful bad.

A NEGRO FARMER,
Opelousas, La.

MAIL IS OPENED

BROTHER EDITOR:-

We can't get our mail through, the mail man refuses to take our mail and when he has mail for us it is always opened and when we complain he curses us out and tells us to go to hell and mind our own business. So we have to walk four miles to mail letters and get postage. His name is W. J. Hicks, Camp Hill, Ala.

NEGRO SHARE CROPPER
Camp Hill, Ala.

WOMEN EVICTED

BROTHER EDITOR:-

We are continuing to have trouble with these white Southern Thugs. Mr. C. B. Henderson drove a poor Negro woman off from her farm on his place because she couldn't keep her cow out of his pasture. He failed to fix the fence for an excuse to drive her from her crop, then threatening her with the law forbidding her to move her pig. Now she is out of doors and don't have anywhere to go. His address is C. B. Henderson R. F. D. 2, Camp Hill, Ala.

A UNION MEMBER

WILLING TO HELP

BROTHER EDITOR:

I want to write you of some of the conditions of the workers here in the black belt. One of the sharecroppers here and myself are being threatened by the landlord. I cannot write you as I wish as I am afraid my letter will not reach you and will get into the hands of some of the landlords. They do not like to hear no one here speak about the union.

What I want to tell you is that I am receiving your paper and I have been giving them out among the members of my local. I was glad to hear about the sharecroppers' convention and to read the resolutions that have been wrote up. I am doing all that I can to help in the struggle for freedom and justice.

I am willing to help you. I am willing to do all I can to help in any way.

A SHARECROPPER,
West Point, Ga.

President North Dakota Farmers' Union Greets Southern Farm Leader And Work

Brothers:-

Receiving the first issue of your paper and reading it from cover to cover, I wish to extend greetings to the Share Croppers Union and extend my heartfelt sympathy to the down-trodden farmers and workers of the South.

While we have a desperate drouth situation, the worst in the history of our state, we still have freedom of speech and action, and at no time, not even excepting mob violence during the war, were North Dakota people subjected to mobs because of free speech. Senator Frazier was our Governor during the war hysteria and protected free speech in the state of North Dakota, even to the point of threatening the use of the the militia. I believe it is the only state in the Union that really protected free speech during that time.

I will accompany my belated greeting with a subscription to your paper, and the balance to your Defense Fund to protect your Union. Here is to the day when the solid South will be organized for the protection of its citizens, farmers and cotton plantation workers, and the security and better homes they are entitled to.

C. C. TALBOTT, President
North Dakota Farmers' Union
Jamestown, North Dakota